

<sup>1</sup> In a December 13, 2004 decision, the Board reversed OWCP's February 18, 2004 decision in File No. xxxxxx447 terminating appellant's compensation benefits. Docket No. 04-1775 (issued December 13, 2004).

plexopathy and low back dysfunction secondary to appellant's March 2000 work injury. Dr. Clem Caccarelli, a Board-certified family practitioner, diagnosed postconcussive syndrome and thoracic outlet syndrome, which he opined had developed over a 10-year period and had been exacerbated by appellant's modified work activities. Without reviewing the relevant case records, the Board is unable to determine whether appellant's current diagnosed conditions are causally related either to a prior injury or the claimed exacerbation in this case. Due to the overlapping nature of the claims, the medical evidence contained in File Nos. xxxxxx749 and xxxxxx477 will necessarily bear directly on appellant's claim for compensation in File No. xxxxxx435.

Because it is essential for the Board to review the medical evidence contained in file numbers xxxxxx749 and xxxxxx477 in order to render a full and fair adjudication of the present appeal, this case will be remanded for OWCP to consolidate case file numbers xxxxxx749 and xxxxxx477 with file number xxxxxx435. Reconstruction of the record will be followed by a *de novo* decision on the merits of the claim, in order to protect appellant's appeal rights.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT** the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs' December 21, 2010 decision be set aside and the case remanded for further development consistent with this order.

Issued: November 25, 2011  
Washington, DC

Richard J. Daschbach, Chief Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Alec J. Koromilas, Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Colleen Duffy Kiko, Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board